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LETTER DATED 7 JULY 1995 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I wish to bring to your attention, and through you to the attention of the members of the Security Council, a disturbing development in the Old City of Nicosia in Cyprus.

Since 20 June 1995, extensive and large-scale excavations have been carried out by the Turkish Cypriot authorities at a feature known as the Roccas Bastion, which forms part of the walls of the Old City of Nicosia and lies immediately behind the Turkish forces' cease-fire line. It is an area specifically covered by the unmanning agreement of May 1989.

The United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was informed in advance by the Turkish Cypriot authorities that they intended to build a children's playground on top of the Roccas Bastion. This information was passed on by UNFICYP to the Cyprus National Guard before the work began. However, the work has included the extensive digging of trenches some 3 metres wide and 2 metres deep and this has raised doubts about its real purpose.

UNFICYP immediately expressed its concern to the Turkish and Turkish Cypriot authorities and, as provided for in the 1989 unmanning agreement, requested access to the excavations on a regular basis, as well as a full and detailed briefing on the plans that were being put into effect. Regrettably, both requests have been denied.

The Government of Cyprus has indicated that, if the existing situation is not rectified, it will deem the unmanning agreement to have been breached and will accordingly consider taking countermeasures.

The United Nations has meanwhile continued to express its concern about these developments to the Turkish authorities both in Nicosia and in New York. Similar representations have been made to the Turkish Cypriot authorities. But no progress has been made towards a resolution of the problem.

Members of the Security Council will recall that, in its resolution 1000 (1995) of 23 June 1995, the Council "calls upon the military authorities on both sides to cooperate urgently with UNFICYP to reach agreement on the

extension of the 1989 unmanning agreement to cover all areas of the buffer zone where the two sides are in close proximity to each other". If the present situation is not resolved quickly, it will not only present an obstacle to the implementation of resolution 1000 (1995) but will also put at risk the unmanning agreement of 1989 and the benefits that have flowed from it.

I should accordingly be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI